

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MINUTES
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM TOWN HALL

Monday, January 7, 2008 7:00PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Board was called to order in open session at 7:02 PM in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall. All BOS members were present. Town Administrator Tom Younger and Assistant Town Administrator Jeff Conti were present.

II. QUESTIONS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS

Resident Bill Ellet presented the Board with a letter and several photos. He is concerned about sidewalks that remain blocked by piles of snow which are dumped there by residents who have their driveways plowed. Mr. Ellet and his son walk to the Burbank School each day and it has become an extremely hazardous walk. He thanked the BOS and the Police Department for the efforts to clear the sidewalks. He offered three suggestions: 1) have someone from the Police Department assigned to be responsible for pedestrian safety; 2) communicate to the public that they cannot pile snow on public right-of-way, e.g. sidewalks; 3) have targeted enforcement from the Police Department regarding sidewalk violations. The Board will take this issue under consideration and will be discussing this later in the evening (9:00 pm).

III. ACTION BY APPOINTMENT

- Anti-Fraud Policy and Response Program Town Accountant Barbara Hagg presented the Board with a draft copy of the Anti-Fraud Policy that auditors (Powers & Sullivan) had created. She said that while it is important to adopt this policy, its creation is a precaution and not in response to any incidents.

The Board moved to support the Anti-Fraud Policy.

The Motion carried unanimously (3-0). - Police Station Feasibility Study Committee

Members of the Police Station Feasibility Study Committee were introduced by Bill Lovallo, the Committee's Chair. Mr. Lovallo began the presentation by reminding the Board that this discussion is a follow up from the 11/07 meeting which was held with the Board to determine where the town needs to go regarding the creation of an up-to-date Police Station facility. The present facility was built in 1931 to house about 30 people, its facilities were updated in 1995, but it is still the same size. (A handout was distributed.)

The Feasibility Study found that there is presently both insufficient parking and inadequate space, which would only be made worse if a site renovation in the same space were done. Valuable space would be lost by meeting handicap and gender requirement regulations. The Study looked at 9 possible sites and has reduced the list to three preferred sites: 1) the present Police Station site combined with the adjacent former Light Department building; 2) the present Library; 3) the former Video Plus building adjacent to the new fire headquarters.

The Board asked which site is the most optimal. Chair Lovallo said that at this point Video Plus location appears to be the least attractive option. The feasibility study will be complete in March and the additional work will allow the committee to recommend a preferred option. On January 22, 2008, there will be an open house at the Police Station for the public to tour the site.

- Farmer's Market End of Year Report Heli Tomford spoke on behalf of the Belmont Farmers' Market, requesting a license renewal for the 2008 season. The Belmont Center Business Association (BCBA) had made three requests: 1) holding the market day on Monday (instead of Thursday); 2) selecting vendors that would not compete with existing Belmont Center businesses; 3) providing financial help for the BCBA to assuage their expenses (e.g., Christmas Tree Lighting event, assistance in paying for trash removal). Chairman Firenze felt that the BCBA requests are reasonable, while Selectman Solomon did not agree with that assessment.

Ms. Tomford continued: The Farmers' Market has reached out to the BCBA for 2 years, and more recently has tried since November to sit down together to discuss these concerns, but has not heard back from them to set up a meeting. The Farmers' Market took the following action based

on the BCBA's requests: sent a contribution for the tree lighting event, researched the possibility of moving the day to Monday, but found that the vendors they surveyed felt that Monday is the least desirable shopping day, and the Farmer's market feels they are selling goods that are different from Belmont Center.

Selectmen Solomon and LeClerc felt that the Farmer's market has had a positive impact on Belmont Center.

The Board moved: To authorize the continuation of the Belmont Farmer's Market for the 2008 season on Thursdays in its current location in the Claflin parking lot, with the expectation that the Farmer's Market will continue its efforts to be sensitive to issues of potential competition with local businesses.

The Motion carried unanimously (3-0). - Representative Brownsberger Legislative Update
Representative Brownsberger began his review stating that money is tight at the state level, but that local aid remains a top priority.

He also touched on the following areas:

" State Capital Planning Process - The State has developed a debt plan and has filed 5 major bond bills representing capital projects.

" Local Aid Picture - Chapter 90 may increase some. The lottery revenue is unlikely to grow this year. Chapter 70 may do well as a result of the initiative to bring communities up to a 17.5% commitment. This money is targeted for schools and at a 10% increase will reach \$385,000 and at 15% = \$578,000. He is working on special education, the Wellington School, and Library funding.

" Alewife - Working to protect the Winn Brook area from sewage overflow.

" Uplands Status - He had a good meeting with the Governor, made points clearly about preserving the land, and the Governor is aware of affordable housing development there.

- Snow Removal from Sidewalks and Municipal Lots

Municipal parking Lot Winter Regulation Options (12/31/07)

Mr. Younger and Mr. Castanino (DPW Director) are recommending to: "Restrict overnight parking from 1:00 am to 7:00 am December 1 through March 30".

The Board said that signs that read: "There is no parking during snow emergencies" do exist, but that the town needs to follow through on the towing. It is the residents' responsibility to move cars and to know if a snow emergency exists. Assistant Town Administrator Conti opined that, with regard to the DPW process, it is more of a disservice to the community in not getting lots plowed, while waiting for 7 cars to get towed.

The Board moved to: "Restrict overnight parking in lots during snow emergencies, with appropriate posting at parking lots advising that cars will be towed during snow emergency, and enforce towing." The Motion carried unanimously (3-0). The Board discussed snow removal from sidewalks. The Town's by-laws require businesses to shovel their sidewalks, while residents are encouraged but not required to do so. Public Works clears snow from sidewalks in front of public facilities as best they can. The Board agreed with the suggestions made earlier by Mr. Ellet. Mr. Younger will look into the best way to remind residents of snow removal regulations and what the Town's options are with regard to enforcement.

- Town Administrator's Report

Town Administrator Younger reported on the following points:

1. Have a timetable for auditorium lighting, should have proposal from architect this evening, to be installed for April 1
2. Cook and Co. making presentation re: Group Insurance Commission (GIC) on February 25

3. The Community Preservation Act (CPA) Study Committee met on January 2 and is scheduling informational presentations from other communities that have adopted the Act
 4. Town Hall door operational by tomorrow
 5. Trash management issues meeting postponed
 6. Did not receive Federal grant for public safety money
 7. Congratulations to HR Director Diane Crimmins for the award she won. The Board moved to send Ms. Crimmins a congratulatory letter.
- The Motion carried unanimously (3-0).
- IV. ACTION BY CONSENT

- Approval through Civil Service to Backfill Vacant Police Officer Positions

Three positions recently created due to promotions of three officers. The Board moved to fill vacant positions.

The Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

- Approval of Board of Selectmen Minutes

March 3, 2007 - March 5, 2007 - March 10, 2007 - March 19, 2007 - June 25, 2007 - July 2, 2007 - July 16, 2007 - August 6, 2007 - September 17, 2007 - September 19, 2007 - September 24, 2007 - September 28, 2007 - October 15, 2007 - October 22, 2007 - November 5, 2007 - November 6, 2007 - November 15, 2007 - November 19, 2007 The Board moved approval of the Minutes.

The Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

V. ACTION BY WRITING

Presidential Primary Warrant move approval.

The Board moved approval of the Presidential Primary Warrant.

The Motion carried unanimously (3-0). 2007 Common Victualler's License - Pho and Thai.

The Board moved to grant a license for 2007 and 2008 The Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

2008 License Renewals - Common Victualler's, Livery and Used Car Dealers

The Board moved to renew all the licenses for 2008 The Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

VI. OTHER

" Selectman Leclerc would like a summary report of what is happening at the Warrant Committee. Selectman Solomon suggested that the Board of Selectmen receive the WC Final Minutes.

" Have received the 2008 snow accounts from Mr. Castanino - \$427,000 allocated to snow removal, have spent \$268,000 which amounts to having spent 63% of snow budget.

" The Board proposed to meet as the Light Board with the Municipal Light Advisory Board on February 8 at 7:30 AM to discuss electric rates.

The Board moved: to enter into executive session to discuss negotiations with non-union personnel and not to return to open session.

The Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

The Board entered executive session at 10:13 PM.

(During executive session, one substantive motion was made and passed unanimously. The Board adjourned at 10:26 PM.)

Administrator

Thomas G. Younger, Town